

HEAVEN'S METAL

VOLUME I
ISSUE #4

50¢



Featuring:
BARREN CROSS



BARREN CROSS

METAL FOR THE KING

Iron Maiden? No, this is Barren Cross. They have a powerful sound that is very, very similar to Maiden, but they have a message that edifies rather than poisons. Every headbanger, Christian and unsaved alike, ought to have Barren Cross in their collection. Their sound has definite power and their message is not timid in the least. "It's hard to classify us," says Steve Whitaker. They have two slower numbers on their EP, but the rest are aggressive, power-metal songs.

Barren Cross hails from Southern California. They've been around for two years now. The band consists of Mike Lee, 21 years old, on lead vocals. Jim La Verde, 21, runs up and down the bass guitar neck, while Ray Parris, 21, tears it up on the six string. Steve Whitaker, 22, is the drummer and current manager of the band.

Mike Lee not only thunders his "heavy metal" voice, but plays the acoustic guitar on the melodic number "Light The Flame." The lyrics are a call to God—"Here you are so close but yet you're far, I see you falling your flame is lit no more. I'm always there in time of your despair. When I knock you're never there."

Ray Parris puts down the electric and picks up an acoustic guitar on "Going Nowhere," a slow/fast song that starts off acoustically and ends with a heart-pounding rhythm. His best finger work is probably shown in "Just A Touch," where he really lets loose. Ray's influences are all fast pickers: Eddie Van Halen, Al Dimeola and Richie Blackmore. He started playing when he was 10 years old. It must be a treat to hear him play live!

Jim La Verde lists Steve Harris, the bassist for Iron Maiden, as one of his influences. God is raising up His standard against the Iron Maidens and Judas Priests of the world, and He's using bass players like Jim to do it. Jim sometimes plays bass like it was a lead guitar. This is explained by the fact that he's been playing guitar since he was 12.

Steve Whitaker is the spokesperson for the group as well as manhandling the drums in every song. The drums stand out on their songs, which is distinct from most Christian rock bands. Steve plays Remo drums and has an endorsement for them and also Vic Firth sticks. (Their costumes are similar to the cover photo. They may change slightly, but they'll always be blue and white.)

Barren Cross used to play the club scene, but not much anymore. "We're getting away from that now," explains Steve. "A lot of younger kids would come to our shows with other bands. Their parents would drop them off at our shows and they'd have to sit through the opening bands. These bands would do all sorts of ungodly things onstage. We don't want anyone to be subjected to an ungodly band. It's our responsibility not to lead the kids into what's not edifying. We are ministering. Playing with a secular band would defeat that purpose."

++That means you'll play "all-Christian" gigs in churches, etc. Isn't that going to restrict your audience to believers only?

"No, we are finding that unsaved people are coming to see us in churches. Ordinarily they'd never step into a church. Fortunately, our music attracts unsaved kids to go to the church or wherever we play. Sometimes the Christian kids need ministering as much as the unsaved.

"We're not saying 'we won't play clubs.' We'll play in a club if the bill consists of all Christian bands. Basically, what we're doing is waiting on God to see where He leads us."

The members of Barren Cross belong to their own churches, but they also support a church called "Sanctuary." Sanctuary has been called a heavy metal church, because "people can get together and worship and not care what they look like." Any band that's getting started or wants to get involved, can. There's one in Whittier and a second one in Torrance. "We

have a vision of seeing these spread across the nation. Hopefully we'll have 5 to 10 Sanctuaries nationwide by the end of the year.

"Another side of Sanctuary is a follow-up program for the people who get saved at concerts, God told us (Sanctuary) that if we didn't have a good follow-up program, that He'd pull down the ministry.

"The pull from the world is so strong to these kids. God doesn't want any of His children to fall away. This is so crucial because a lot of kids get saved, but don't know what to do next. They need discipleship. Discipleship hasn't been done properly. Even Billy Graham only has an 8% statistic of conversions that stay for keeps. We will constantly encourage and send people who make decisions materials for their growth, like Bible studies on discipleship.

"We are now realizing the importance of discipleship. If you bring people to the Lord, it doesn't do any good if you don't encourage them and help them grow," Praise God that this need is now being met! It is a sad thing to see someone make a shallow commitment and then fall away. As Christians, we ought to pray that the hearts of the audience will be "honest and good and hold it (the Word) fast," just like the good soil. (Luke 8:4-15).

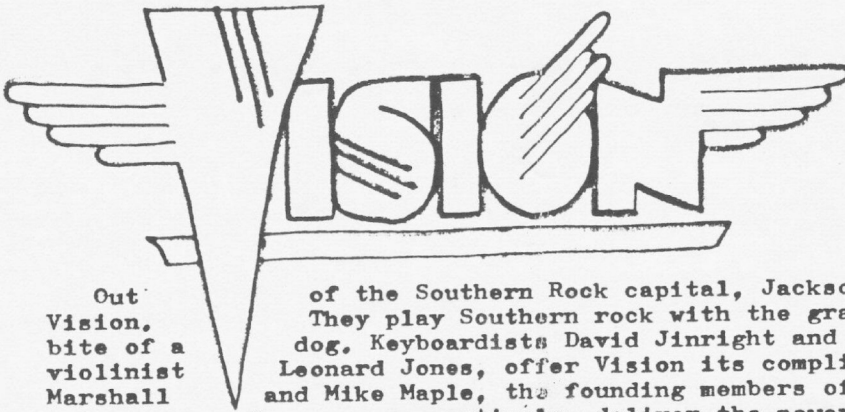
Some Star Song representatives went to see Barren Cross play in Fontana, California last Fall. They must've been impressed, because they signed 'em to a record contract. The new album is called ROCK FOR THE KING. It was produced, as was the EP, by Dino Elefante, who sang for Kansas on their last two albums. This album promises to be hot! There's nine songs on it, consisting of three new ones and the six that were on the EP. One of the new ones is the title track, which sounds great! The other six have been remixed.

"We want the new album to be available for whoever wants to get it. We're praying for A&M distribution." Let's hope that's what the Lord wants, cause if He does--it will happen! The band is also praying that they can afford to headline on a tour. "We've got big visions in big arenas and more albums down the line. We're working on a new stage right now, plus neon signs and other odds and ends. We're waiting for the album to come out and create a demand to see Barren Cross live. This will increase record sales and generate money for a tour and a stage. We want a stage as impressive and awesome as Iron Maiden or Van Halen. There's no sense in being less than the world. We should be better than the world. We've got a gig with Saint in Torrance, CA on February 8th. We've got a 10-day tour in Nevada after that. Then a Canadian and possibly Japan and the East Coast. The world tour isn't far off." Most serious headbangers would have to agree

that Barren Cross's musical talent would merit a major headlining tour. It will be exciting to see where God takes them.

If you can't find the album by Feb. 15th, you can, by that time get it directly from the band at 1701 Centinela Ave, Suite #124, Inglewood, CA 90302. If you (cont'd on p 5)





"WE PLAN ON
BEING A THORN IN
THE SIDE OF THE
DEVIL, 'TIL JESUS
COMES AND GETS
US."

Out Vision, bite of a violinist Marshall and faster numbers, Rocco Marshall has been blessed with a beautiful set of vocal chords, which are as proficient as each one of the instruments.

"Mike Maple and I started the band," says Rocco. "We do studio work here in town." (They must have "musician's clout" because their custom debut album was recorded at Pat Travers! Artists' Rehearsal Studio.) "We decided to get serious. Phil Driscoll really encouraged me to get started. Phil and I are real good friends. We've done lots of work together before and after we got right with God."

Besides having enormous talent, Vision has been given a factor that attracts attention to themselves. Billy Powell used to play piano for the legendary Lynyrd Skynyrd Band. Billy played on all the big tunes, such as FREE BIRD and SWEET HOME ALABAMA, etc. Billy was one of the few survivors of the tragic plane crash that ended Lynyrd Skynyrd. In the rock world, being an ex-member of a big-name group will attract attention. Billy is so happy in the Lord these days. He does some talking in their concerts.

Vision is very serious about their ministry. When they played in Houston, Texas last June, Rocco said "We came here believing that it would bear good fruit. If we didn't think so, we wouldn't have come." God has equipped them with all that's necessary for them to do what He wants them to.

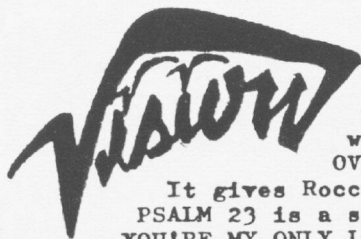
"We've been called to war," explains Rocco. "We have the soldier's attitude, which is to overcome and win. We don't back up, we go forward. We know we're the winners."

"And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.' And this expression, 'Yet once more,' denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:26-29) "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him." (Colossians 2:15)

"We are preaching the uncompromised Word of God," says Rocco. "Jesus is Lord. We plan on being a thorn in the side of the devil till Jesus comes and gets us."

Vision has just done more damage to the kingdom of darkness by releasing their new album. It's like a "second debut album," because they already have a custom album out on Dunamis Records. The first one has the following songs: MOUNTAIN IN THE SKY, COMING SOON, OLD MAN, DYNAMOS, STANDING IN THE LIGHT, DEDICATED, FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, SOLDIERS SONG and LORD IS MY JOY. The new album (both are titled: Vision) features five songs off the custom project, but remixed: DYNAMOS, LORD IS MY JOY, OLD MAN, DEDICATED and SOLDIERS SONG.

(continued on page 5)



The remixed songs have a different feel to them. The custom mix had a high treble and glossy sound, while the new mixes sound crisper and have a tad more distortion. STANDING ON THE ROCK is an anthem-type rocker with a large chorus singing the title. DON'T SAY IT'S OVER is a cry to people that are taking their lives away.

It gives Rocco a chance to let his high voice clearly peak out.

PSALM 23 is a slow acoustic rendition of the well-known scripture.

YOU'RE MY ONLY LORD is my favorite from the album. The lyrics acknowledge the rightful place that Jesus should take in a person's life. "You are my only Lord You are the one that I'll always serve. You are my only Lord And in my heart it's Your fire burning." It starts off with a frenzied violin riff that sets the rhythm going. Vision uses all their instruments in this song: Violin, synthesizer, guitars, drums, bass and piano. The energy level is high and promotes worship that is true: "Oh Lord, You're mighty." The last number is a good ole' rock 'n' roll number with boogie-woogie piano: YOU'RE THE ONE.

Vision has been working on a video. They will be finished filming it by January 18th. "We're doing it right. We're not gonna rush it. We're not gonna rush it. We're also going to release a live concert video."

Vision will be busy touring for the next few months. Here are some tour dates. If you live close to one of these spots, call a local Christian bookstore for info. If that fails, call Greg Menza Artists @ (404) 262-6444

1-24 Snow Safari Gatlinberg, TN

1-25 Florence, South Carolina

1-26 Raleigh, North Carolina

1-27 Hampton, Virginia

1-29 Alexandria, VA

1-30 Lancaster, VA

1-31 Trenton, New Jersey

2-1 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

2-2 Johnstown, PA

2-3 Youngstown, Ohio

2-4 Columbus, OH

2-8 Winchester, VA

2-9 Kingsport, Tennessee

2-10 Charlotte, N. Carolina

2-11 Savannah, Georgia

2-21 Valdosta, GA

2-22 Columbus, GA

2-23 Montgomery, Alabama

2-24 Birmingham, AL

2-25 Macon, GA

2-26 Nashville, TN

2-27 Meridian, Mississippi

2-28 Jackson, Miss

3-1 Baton Rouge, Louisiana

3-3 New Orleans, LA

3-4 Mobile, AL

3-5 Pensacola, Florida

3-6 Tallahassee, Fla



Barren Cross continued-- wish to order their EP, send \$9.75 (The cassette version of the EP is sold out.) If you would like Barren Cross accessories, they have that too.

++How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for Barren Cross?

"Pray that we stay on the path God has chosen for us. That we don't sway one way or another. We need to concentrate on our humble attitudes. Also that all the Christian bands can unite for the same purpose and possibly have a massive concert together. Pray that the album gets out to those who need it the most.

Barren Cross may be the best band to practice "ghetto-blasters evangelism" with. Their loud choruses have a clear and simple message: "Believe, believe, believe, believe"--from BELIEVE

"He loves you, He loves you, He loves you, He loves you"--from HE LOVES YOU
"Give your life to Jesus, He'll forgive your sin Give your life to Jesus, Just let Him in Give your life to Jesus, You can do no wrong Give your life to Jesus, He can make you strong."--from GIVE YOUR LIFE
Try it out, but be gracious to your neighbors.

NEWS FLASH!!! One of Heaven's Metal's readers from England, Richard Timms, reports that 100% Proof have split up.

Mark Krischak has a hardcore punk band that sounds a lot like Hanoi Rocks. For info write him @ 229 Detroit St., Huntington Beach, CA. 92648

JERUSALEM - LIVE IN USA IN HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

It's here! It's here. What a way to start off the new year! Talk about powerful! Now you can have part of a Jerusalem concert in your home, car or blasted through your Walkman headphones.

The title track follows the concert introduction--"Please welcome to America, Jerusalem!" This song starts off the record with a surging synthesizer intro, but it doesn't linger for too long. The guitar rips right in with a ferocious rhythm and the keyboard joins in to propel the song into a fast-paced rocker. After a few runs of the melody, Ulf starts projecting his voice through the speakers. "Run fast, run fast. Don't let the messenger rest." This song lets you know that you're not dealing with a wimpy band. Jerusalem is solid. Praise God for a band that has powerful music. You get tired just listening to this album. Some music has the quality to increase your heart rate and draw your emotions to a peak level. This first song does all that for me. This album can duke it out with any of Ronnie James Dio's best stuff. The distortion effects used by Ulf are just right. It is amazing to realize that Ulf is playing all the guitar parts and handling all the lead vocals as well.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEART is the next song, and Ulf and the boys jump right into it after the first number. Besides the totally powerful music, Jerusalem has another terrific asset: they are hearing from God. It shows in what they say and in their lyrics. FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEART is a plea for compassion from the church. It serves as a powerful rebuke to us as we ignore the hurting people around us. "All they do is cry. All they know is hunger. But the pain will stay 'till the day you obey." Too many Christians are "Still waiting and wondering for a reason. But if love is master you have to go. A cymbal is sounding." We need to hear what God is saying through these guys. This song features some virtuoso keyboard playing that adds a great flair to the fast pace. This time we get a short breather between songs and then off we go with I'M WAITING FOR YOU. This is off their last album, along with READ BETWEEN THE LINES and CAN'T STOP US NOW. Like most live performances, the songs are faster than the studio versions.

The first two songs are new, along with THE TIDE, which finishes side one. Ulf used some good analogies with the ocean to depict the compelling force of God's love and the assurance of His promise to return. The keyboards are used a lot in this song, but it doesn't take away from the heavy sound; rather, it adds to it. Dan Tibell plays keyboards for a heavy metal band and not a pop band. The keys here add a richness to the overall sound.

ASHES IN OUR HANDS is one of the jewels from the "Warrior" album (which is probably their best studio album). The studio version of this song seems to have more of an impact because the pauses are longer between the change-ups in tempo. It isn't a bad performance though, in fact, it's good. It's nice to hear the guitar in its natural form: coming out of loud speakers with no studio adulterations.

CAN'T STOP US NOW definitely benefits from the increased speed of a live performance. This song is our anthem as the body of Christ. "Nothing's gonna stop us, we're on the attack! No matter what comes or which wind blows we will be the winners when the final stories told."

After this song Ulf takes some time to exhort the body: "I'm a soldier. You are a soldier. You are a warrior in the army of God. So stand up and take your sword, take your shield and start fighting and don't sit down." Then they tear into TIME, which has only been released on Refuge Record's "Front Row" compilation album.

Considering the amount of time Ulf usually spends talking in concert, we expected more talking on this album. This is no problem at all, though. "What he (Ulf) said is just dripping with the Holy Spirit," says Carey

continued next page

Womack, who is the pastor of a Baptist church, the lead singer of a Christian punk rock band called "One Bad Pig," and a subscriber to Heaven's Metal.

MAN OF THE WORLD ends the album with a classic marching cadence. This should drain every last drop of energy out of you if you've listened to the album straight through. Ulf speaks out after the song and exhorts us again--"MISTER CHRISTIAN, THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME!!"

On a scale from one to ten, this album tops the scales with a big 10. Buy it and play it loud the first time, and louder the second. And louder, and louder...M^AT^RY^X

Finally. Here's^X some information on Matryx! They were formed in 1983 and have gained a dedicated following in the Louisville, Kentucky and Southern Indiana area. They've played concerts and in clubs with a theatrical show. They use "dramatic lighting effects, fog, dry-ice, explosions and bizarre costumes." They have over 40 original songs and three studio demo tapes; PG-13, MONKEY SEE MONKEY DO and SILENT MADNESS. The sound on PG-13 and SILENT MADNESS remind me a bit of old AC-DC and old Raven. Kind of a raw energy with lots of a rebellious sound. In this case, it isn't rebellion from authority and parents, but rebellion from the world's corruption and the devil. There is some impressive guitar work here. Troy Thompson, I'm sure, attracts a lot of attention in concert. This band is a trio. Troy plays guitar and composes the music, while Dale Thompson sings and plays bass, plus writes the lyrics. Steve Gilbert plays the drums.

WHAT'S THE POINT is a creative song with a very catchy melody. The lyrics, "Je-sus ne-ver wan-ted it to be this way," stay in your head long after hearing the song. That's a good quality to have in a song. People remember you that way. WHAT MUST I DO starts off with a climbing guitar scale with the drums kicking in like a pulse every so often. I love it when bands do that. The drum beats seem to freeze the sound, then the guitar returns until the drums are hit again. (It reminds me of a song called "Seven 8" by the Mark Williamson Band--a heavy/creative pop band from England, on Myrrh Records.)

LOOK AT ME NOW is a screamer that definitely establishes the band as metal. I just wonder what expensive production would make this band sound like. I bet great! They are hoping to be signed by a record company. They are currently working with Rick Long of Morada Records.

Let's hear it for Morada. They are starting lots of metal bands on their way today. Saint, Messiah Prophet and Rob Cassells have got going because of Morada. They are like an obedient servant. They are serving the Lord faithfully and haven't gotten much attention.

When I first got the Matryx demo (Dale was nice enough to send me one), I played it while I opened up letters from Heaven's Metal subscribers. I didn't really get to hear it, and it didn't appeal to me. Now that I've actually sat down and listened to it, I like it.

If you would like to order any of Matryx's recordings, send \$6 to Dale Thompson, Route 1, Box 115-A, West Point, KY 40177. (502) 922-4628. They also have t-shirts for \$10. Check it out and lift them up in prayer!

RECORD RAVES RECORD RAVES RECORD RAVES RECORD RAVES RECORD RAVES RECORD RAVES RECORD RAVES

Dennis Welch -- MAN OF STEEL Many of you have written in asking about Dennis' sound. I can understand you're wanting to know something about it before you fork over the bucks for it. Dennis Welch's sound is probably best categorized as power pop. David Marshall, who was one of the core members of Arkangel, provides the guitars for Dennis. It's not metal in the thrash, bang and speed sense, but the guitar gets loud in a "good old rock 'n' roll" style. This is the type of stuff that your local FM rock station would play. It's too radical for the top 40 stations, yet it wouldn't be played during a heavy metal hour either. (Continued on page 9)

Stryper has just completed their first U.S. tour, and it was a good one. They're getting their sound tighter and tighter as time goes on. Several Heaven's metal subscribers wrote in about the Stryper show they saw:

"I went to Stryper in Indianapolis and it was the neatest concert I've been to! The fans were going wild with their fists in the air shouting 'Jesus, Jesus.' I brought friends and they weren't Christians, they said it was the most amazing thing they ever saw. I wish more heavy groups would come to Indy, it seems like it's all secular groups."

-Steve Craig

"I saw Stryper on Nov. 9th in Worcester, Mass. They were excellent. Their love for Jesus is there. I think the heavy metal fans that were there were simply amazed at the preaching that they were getting from Michael. I prayed in the lobby of the theater with two other believers and was and felt great to be there in the body of Christ. Robert was entering a side gate and this girl said to him, 'I love you Robert,' and Robert's reaction was 'Do you love Jesus?' That blew my mind apart!"

--David Bahr, West Redding, Conn.

"On Nov. 1st, I attended a Stryper concert when the 'Soldiers Under Command' tour invaded Detroit, Michigan. It was great!! They began with THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC playing over the speakers, and then halfway through the song, came out and shook everybody's hand in the front row (Including me, of course). Then, they went right into SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND and MAKES ME WANNA SING, and jammed throughout the whole concert. Also, catching a Bible was a great thrill for me. Proclaiming Jesus and His righteousness before every song, Michael Sweet captivated the audience's attention throughout the whole show. If they come in your area, GET TICKETS!! P.S. Can you tell who my favorite band is?!!?"--Chris Stone

Romeo, Mich

The boys in yellow and black toured with about 50% Christian bands and 50% secular. When Stryper played in San Antonio (sometimes called 'the heavy metal capital' of the world.), the ungodly group, Heaven opened for them. This was warfare for many Christians there. Fortunately, their set was a short one. (The audience asked for no encores.) When Stryper came on there was such a release in my spirit. God's Spirit travels with Stryper, and He reaches out to their audiences.

Stryper donned red and white Christmas hats for their rendition of WINTER WONDERLAND. The boys were all playing new guitars. Hopefully Oz Fox received the sponsorship from Chervell-Jackson guitars that he was hoping for.

Now it's time for a Stryper history lesson. Most of us, because of Stryper's wide media coverage, already know that Michael and Robert were in a band called Roxx Regime before Stryper. Timmy was in a band called



Oz in Oztin, Texas

Stormer. Oz got his nickname in high school because he was a total Black Sabbath-head. He was always quoting their lyrics. All of his friends started calling him Oz. When Stryper formed, they all discussed their image and what they were doing. They decided Oz Fox was a good name for him to use. Oz believes that, because of his name, he will have an opportunity to share Jesus with Ozzy Osbourne.

After the band said "Let's go," they started to triple their rehearsing time. They started holding rock and roll Bible studies where they rehearsed. It got so radical that they had to stop it. There were people lining up just to come. Robert told Bam magazine, "the police started showing up wondering what was going on. I told them 'Bible study' and they'd start laughing at me."

Enigma Records has released a 12" single of REACH OUT, backed with an edited version of TOGETHER AS ONE, followed by a 20-minute interview of Michael and Robert. One of the things Robert brings up is the cover of "Soldiers Under Command." Notice that Robert is holding a Bible in one hand and a gun in the other. On the back cover, next to the word "soldier," is the scripture reference 2 Timothy 2:3,4. The Living Bible says, "Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, just as I do, and as Christ's soldier do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the One who has enlisted you in His army."

Stryper wanted to emphasize the fact that we are in a spiritual war, thus all the guns on the cover. "We're not promoting violence. Jesus in Mathew 10:34 said, 'Think not that I have come to bring peace on earth, but a sword.' Jesus is our ultimate example of peace. Why would He make such a statement? A sword in His time was as violent and as easily accessible as a gun is today." Jesus was making a point. That's what Stryper is doing.

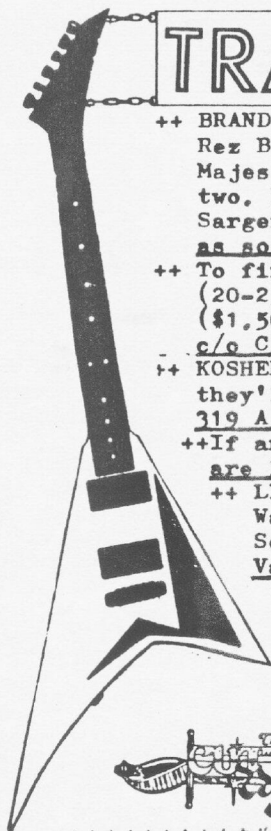
Next year's stage show may be a lot different. Robert told Bam Magazine "Someday I want a drum stage that's in the shape of a cross that I enter onto from the right on a chrome spiral staircase, and I exit from the stage on the left side that's a 20-foot ramp that's painted like a road that's black with a yellow line down the center. I'm gonna exit through a turnstile -you know those turnstiles in the market, they're aluminum, click, click, click?-that's how I get out. Okay? I also want a hologram of Jesus Christ to appear on the drumstage. And it's to speak to the audience."

Reports indicate that Stryper has been signed on England's Stiff Records. This will help distribute their albums in England without Enigma having to import them over there. Speaking of England, Kerrang! #109 recently had a Stryper story with pictures on the inside cover! Issue # 110 had the end-of-the-year picks by all their writers. Three of them had Stryper in their top twenty albums of the year! The editor had Stryper in the top three!

Stryper's SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND video is now on MTV. Praise God. This video shows a camera shot of the Holy Bible before it's thrown into the audience. It's a concert video and it's totally hot!

Dennis cont'd

Dennis deals mostly with issues from a Christian perspective. This approach has kept him from being signed by the major Christian labels. "They said 'it was not overtly Christian,'" relates Dennis. Some of the local secular stations in Houston have played his tunes. DON'T TOUCH MY GENES is about genetic engineering. Dennis says, "I wrote this song when I was hopping mad about it." This song, plus I WILL NEVER LET YOU GO and CHANGE OF HEART are in the pop-oriented mold, with a dependency on the synthesizer. The other three songs on this 6-song EP are more expressive vocally, as well as more meaty guitar-wise. The title track is a quick number with a catchy hook that forces you to sing along. DEEP IN THE NIGHT has the best guitar work from Marshall on this album. Dennis belts out



TRADING POST

++ BRAND NEW TAPES!

Rez Band- Live/Bootleg and Jerusalem- Live in USA/ In His Majesty's Service. \$8.00 each separately or \$15.00 for the two. Please send check or money order to Steve Craig 8936 Sargent Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256. (Tapes will be sent as soon as possible.)

++ To find rare and custom releases on small independent labels (20-25% off list) and also a good supply of used records, (\$1.50-\$3) send a S.A.S.E. for catalog. Gospel Rox Records, c/o Claude Crain, 2710 N. Fulbright #11, Springfield, MO 65803.

++ KOSHER RECORDS can find you practically any record. For \$1.50, they'll send you a sampler tape of some of what they've got. 319 A. N. "J" St., Lompoc, CA 93436.

++ If anyone has Arkangel tapes available, let us know. There are lots of requests from people who can't find it.

++ LIVE CHRISTIAN METAL TAPES!

Want to trade? I've got Stryper live, plus 100% Proof live. Send me your list. David Johnson 18772 Dubin Ct, Castro Valley, CA 94546 (Attn: Robert Leebrick!)

++ To obtain Against The Tide's demo tape or Covenant Band's 7" EP, contact Kosher Records. To get L.E.D.'s tape, send \$6 to L.E.D. c/o Billy Sutherland, 10011 McNeely Lake Dr., Louisville, KY 40229

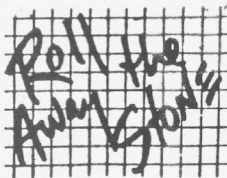
++ THE CUTTING EDGE

A newsletter covering all types of Christian music. Subs are \$9/year, 12 issues. Make checks/m. orders payable to Dan Kennedy 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando, FLA 32810

That's right, **ROLL AWAY THE STONE**
A newsletter for people who want to listen to The rock. One year costs \$2. Send to Jon Grassi, RD#2 Kempton, PA 19529



THE ACTIVIST-----
6 issues for \$6. Make checks payable to: Manna U. P., Mail to: The Activist, 3833 1/2 Mahoning Ave, Youngstown, OH 44515



Dennis cont'd

parts of the chorus out of the bottom of his lungs. He really could sing consistently hard-rock tunes very well if he wanted. His lyrical style compliments his voice well: "Somehow the room seems darker than ever. How long he's been there, seems like forever. Trapped in this lifetime, nowhere to run So he lives on in the darkness and dreams of the sun."

The last song **RUN FROM THE FIRE** is a compassionate look at the lost world, coupled with a cry to turn them around.

Kemper and Bekah Crabb and Randy Sanchez, also members of Arkangel, add vocals and drums respectively, to this album.

Dennis is currently working on re-releasing these six tunes, plus four more on a full length album with the same title. Shadow/Refuge Records were talking with him last Fall about releasing this record. Capital Records may distribute it. We'll see. If you're into rock that isn't out and out metal, check it out. White Horse Records 12650 Hickory Bend, Houston, TX 77070

END OF THE YEAR PICKS

It's about that time to look back and choose what albums were the best in 1985. Go ahead and write in with your top five picks for the year and I'll print the results in Issue #5. My choices are as follows:

- #1 AD ART OF THE STATE
- #2 Stryper SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND
- #3 Darrell Mansfield Band REVELATION
- #4 Vision VISION
- #5 Barren Cross BELIEVE

Why is AD #1? Well, it's ridiculous to label AD heavy metal. In fact, it's ridiculous to affix AD with any label besides "creative." The song THE FURY is as powerful as its name. It's not as powerful as its subject matter-- God's wrath, but it will shake your speakers if you crank it up. A gothic organ ends the number with all the authority that loud music can muster.

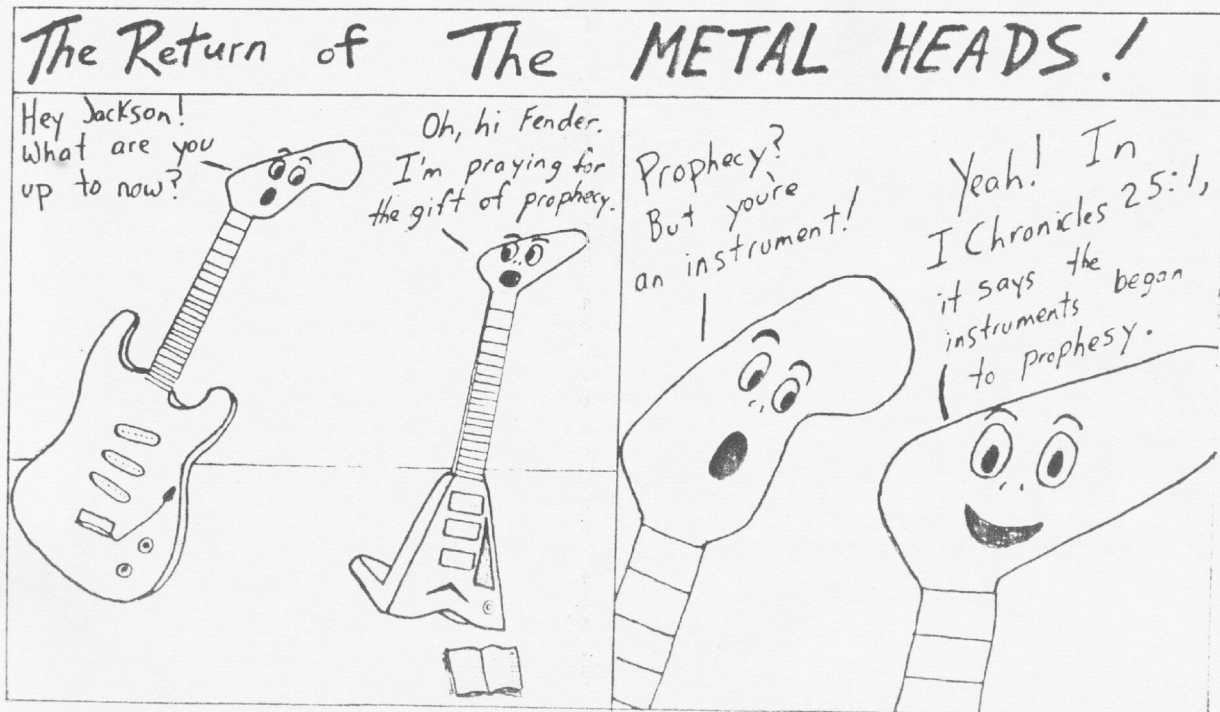
Kerry is serious about his Christianity and his lyrics show it. This album draws me closer to God. I receive utter joy listening to the multiple textures involved. This is true art. It hasn't received the recognition it deserves, but I don't think Kerry minds. I picture him as a humble and faithful servant. A slave of the most high God.

What's your favorite of '85? My vote for '86 is already Jerusalem live, but if AD releases another one...

PRAYER PROJECT

Lift up the unsaved owners of bars and clubs. God can turn something bad into something good. He took my filthy hands and has made them holy.

Intercede for the Christian concert promoters. They are usually operating out of love rather than any kind of profit. If a concert ministry is going to work, the body is going to have to function together. God knows these needs. Let's lift them up and watch Him meet 'em.





I've got a message from God for you: "If you knew how much I love you, you would just crumble in my grace. You would have no doubts, no second thoughts about giving Me your life."

Just realize God's love for you. He spelled it out in His Word. If you don't believe that God loves you, just ask Him if He does.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

PREACHIN'

We all know that God created all things, including music. Satan hasn't and can't create anything, including heavy metal music. We don't need to spend our time justifying Christian rock music. Let's spend our time loving God and living a life in response to that love.

Christian rock music has some problems that need to be dealt with. I don't know the answers, but I do know that they start on our knees. God will deal with each of us individually. Maybe He wants you to give up Christian music, maybe He wants you to get more involved with it, maybe He wants you to ask Him along the next time you go shopping for a Christian rock album, maybe He wants you to get rid of any secular artist you might cling to. Maybe He wants you to be out witnessing for God instead of rocking out for God in your room. Maybe He wants more control over the dollars you spend on music.

I know that Christian rock is going to improve in this next year, but are you and I going to improve as well?

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WITNESS CHANGES NAME (PTL) Witness, a Christian metal band from Austin, is now FOLLOWER. They changed their name because some other band already had the name. "We had to change our name 4 times," states guitarist Barry Krafton, "because we couldn't find one that wasn't being used." Witness was featured, along with Ian Ripper, in issue #2 of Heaven's Metal. The lead singer position for both groups is being handled by the same person, Lance. They are signed with Marock Records. Karry Krafton is at EMI in Los Angeles mixing down the tape at the time of publication. The record should be out by mid-April. There will be ten songs on the album: YOU GOTTA CHOOSE, FATHER OF LIES, KILL THE NAZARENE, A TEAR FROM GOD'S EYE, TIRED OF RUNNIN', IN THE SON, BATHE ME IN THE BLOOD, FEAR NO EVIL, TRIBULATION TIMES and PRAISE THE LORD. There's lots of guitars on this album. Bryan Wooten, the lead guitarist, is really hot. Most of the songs are hard rock with a few hard pop songs. The last song, PRAISE THE LORD, is a real ballad. Karry says that "almost Sandi Patti could sing it."

"One of our main goals," continues Karry, "is to play to unsaved crowds." Heaven's Metal will keep you posted on both Follower and Ian Ripper.

